

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /067 W

-----109710 301143Z /43

R 300045Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2564

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU/POLAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 1217

CINCPAC FOR PRLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PORG PINS XP

SUBJ: MEETING OF EIGHT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

1. SUMMARY: THE EIGHT SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM GOT UNDERWAY IN PORT MORESBY ON AUSUT 29 WITH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND MINISTERS OF ELEVEN MEMBER STATES PRESENT. THE CONFERENCE SPENT MUCH OF THE SAY ORGANIZING ITSELF AND LISTENING TO REPORTS AND SPEECHES. AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER FRASER CALLED FOR CLOSER TIES WITH ASEAN. THE FORUM'S ONLY SIGNIFICANT ACTION DURING THE FIRST SESSION, HOWEVER, WAS TO ADMIT THE GILBERT ISLANDS TO FULL

MEMBERSHIP. IRIAN JAYA DISSIDENTS GREETED SOME DELEGATES WITH PETITIONS AND PLACARDS BUT THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS AND THE MATTER WAS MENTIONED TO THE FORUM BUT NOT DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

2. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND MINISTERS REPRESENTING FIJI, NAURU,  
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THE COOK ISLANDS, WESTERN SAMOA, NIUE, AUSTRALIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, THE SOLOMONS, TONGA, THE GILBERT ISLANDS AND NEW ZEALAND AND AN OFFICIAL FROM TUVALU FORMALLY OPENED THE 8TH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM IN PORT MORESBY AUGUST 29. ONLY THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY WAS OPEN TO PRESS AND PUBLIC AND THE PREMIER OF NIUE, WHO MET WITH THE PRESS ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATES FOLLOWING THE SAY'S SESSIONS, PROVIDED LITTLE INFORMATION AS TO THE SUBSTANCE OF

THE MEETINGS.

3. TWO SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS WERE DEALT WITH ONCE THE CONFERENCE COMPLETED ITS PRELIMINARY BUSINESS. THE GILBERT ISLANDS WAS ADMITTED TO FORMAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE FORUM (IT HAD HELD OBSERVER STATUS). THE ONLY DEBATE OF THE MEETING WAS TRIGGERED BY FIJI WHICH PUSHED SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRM CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION IN THE FUTURE. MEMBERSHIP WILL BE GRANTED ONLY TO STATES WHICH ARE FULLY SELF-GOVERNING OF INDEPENDENT. THE GILBERT ISLANDERS ASSURED THE FORUM THEY WERE SELF-GOVERNING AND WERE ADMITTED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE. INFORMED OBSERVERS TOLD US THAT THE FIJIANS HAD RAISED THE THE ISSUE IN ORDER TO THWART ANY FUTURE MOVE TOWARDS MEMBERSHIP BY FRENCH POLYNESIA WHICH THE FIJIANS BELIEVE WILL RUN BY PARIS REGARDLESS OF CLAIMS TO THE CONTRARY. ONE PARTICIPANT TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT ANTIPATHY TOWARDS THE LARGE GILBERT ISLANDER POPULATION IN FIJI ALSO WAS IN THE BACK OF THE MINDS OF THE FIJIANS.

4. THE OTHER FORUM ACTION OF THE SAY APPROVED MAKING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING FACILITY IN FIJI A NATIONAL, RATHER THAN REGIONAL, ENTITY. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT OF FIJI WILL TRAIN COMMUNICATORS FROM THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

5. PRIME MINISTER FRASER HAD TO RETURN TO AUSTRALIA AFTER THE MORNING SESSION. PRIOR TO DEPARTURE HE OUTLINED HIS THINKING ON THE NEED FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC GROUP TO MOVE CLOSER TO ASEAN. THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOPIC WILL BE DISCUSSED AUGUST 30, AS WILL, INTER ALIA, THE 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, FISHERIES AND THE SEABED AUTHORITY.

6. AS DELEGATES ARRIVED FOR THE INAUGURAL SESSION, A GROUP REPRESENTING THE SELF-STYLED PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF IRIAN JAYA PASSED OUT PETITIONS AND CRRRIED PLACARDS PLEADING THEIR CAUSE AND PROTESTING AN AUSTRALIAN MAPPING PROGRAM IN IRIAN JAYA. THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS AND THE FORUM SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT PNG PRIME MINISTER SOMARE HAD ANNOUNCED TO THE GROUP WHAT HAD OCCURRED (SOME HAD NOT EVEN NOTICED) AND IT WAS LEFT AT THAT. OLMSTED

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## Message Attributes

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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
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